



St L U K E'S

Church of England School

Drugs Education Policy

Name of SLT responsible: Hannah Talbot

Comments: None

Date of Ratification by Governors: June 2021

Date of Next Review: June 2022

Drug Education Policy

This policy is developed in accordance with DFE document Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. Published on 17th September 2020.

Responsibilities

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the drug education policy as part of the Life To The Full (LTTF) scheme of work which covers all aspects of the PSHE programme, along with other appropriate areas of the curriculum covering this topic. The Governors and Ethos committee will review the policy bi-annually and assess its effectiveness and need for changes as necessary.

Rationale

A robust drugs policy is not only a statutory requirement but part of our care for the welfare of our pupils. St. Luke's Church of England School believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse including the use of prescription drugs, illegal drugs and legal highs.

The college will take a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the personal and social education of every pupil. The college condones neither the misuse of drugs by members of the college, nor the possession or supply of drugs. The College operates a zero tolerance approach to the use, possession or dealing of illegal drugs on the College site in line with our safeguarding duties.

Fundamental to our college's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and cooperation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

The Educational Context

Section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988 places a statutory responsibility upon schools to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;
- prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The National Curriculum for Science requires that pupils be taught in KS3:

To describe the difference between recreational and medicinal drugs, including legality, the effects on your health, addiction, withdrawal, associated behaviour and symptoms

- Alcohol- health and behaviour, scientific effects including impact on conception and pregnancy, recommended units and physiological effects
- Smoking- health and pregnancy, emotional, contents, passive smoking, airwaves, lungs and associated diseases
- Addictive foods eg sugar, fats, nutrition
- At GCSE a more detailed scientific study of antibiotics, painkillers, new drugs, alcohol and carcinogens, related diseases eg cancer, heart disease

Statutory PSHE guidance (September 2020) requires pupils to cover:

- The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions.
- The law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances.
- The physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood.
- The physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency.
- Awareness of the dangers of drugs, which are prescribed but still present serious health risks.
- The facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer).

This will be taught at various points throughout a student's time at St Luke's. The model of the SOW is one of a stepping-stone. As students come back to a topic, they will be able to explore it in increasing depth. Outside providers will be brought in where possible and appropriate, but this will vary from year to year.

Statements on Specific Issues

Advice information and referral (individually and in the classroom)

Factual information should be given according to the agreed policy. Staff, are warned that individual advice about a student's personal use of substances is not appropriate; but that the provision of information about other sources of information/support agencies/help lines is.

Confidentiality / disclosure.

Staff are reminded to follow their college's policy on confidentiality issues. They are reminded that if they suspect a pupil is in moral or physical danger they must pass that information on to the member of staff designated to deal with such issues as part of safeguarding protocol

Clarification of attitudes towards harm reduction strategies.

It is not recommended that the safer use of illegal substances be dealt with as part of a college's general teaching programme. However this may be a strategy used by some outside agencies to whom young people already experimenting may be referred.

Procedures for the curriculum involvement of visitors and other agencies.

This should be a policy guideline document which should be made available to all outside speakers.

Policy for the Management of Incidents of Substance Misuse

In accordance with National and County directives, St Luke's maintains a policy (ISIMP) to assist, support and educate students, staff and parents in dealing with incidences of drug, solvent and alcohol misuse. Staff, parents, students and external agencies have contributed to the development of this policy, which is reviewed bi-annually.

Working with Parents

The Drugs Education Policy is available for parents to see at any time.

The Principal and Governors have the overall responsibility for the monitoring of the Drug Education Policy and policy for substance misuse. The LTTF Lead, will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy as part of the annual review cycle for LTTF and make recommendations for modifications.

Guidelines on the use of visitors and outside agencies

Health education is a shared responsibility for the whole community; what is learned at college can and should be supported by experiences at home and in the community. It is therefore sometimes appropriate to involve visitors from outside agencies, not to undertake the above, but to support it.

Before visitors are involved in drug education, or any aspect of health education, the college will ensure that:

- Visitors are aware of the college guidelines and policies on Safeguarding and subscribe to those policies
- Visitors share the college's values and approach to health education
- The contribution is consistent with the college's own theory and practice and the information impartial.
- An outsider's input is being sought for sound educational reasons and that the particular visitor is the most appropriate source of that input.
- The contribution from visitors is an integrated element of the curriculum; with appropriate planning, preparatory and follow-up work.
- Visitors understand the emotional and intellectual levels of the children or young people involved and can communicate at appropriate level.

- The legal implications of having and using visitors in college in respect of child protection and the Children Act 1989 are addressed.
- The visitor is known to and recommended by a recognised authority.

Visitors will not be left alone to work with pupils. The teachers will be part of the experience so he/she can provide appropriate follow up work.

The teacher will remain responsible for the class at all times; and for all pupil discipline issues.

The LTTF lead will negotiate with the teacher and visitor.

- What are the aims of the session?

Guidelines on the use of visitors and outside agencies (continued)

- How will this agency's contributions enhance the students' experience?
- What drug education have the pupils already experienced?
- What will they experience in the future?
- How will the session be followed up?
- What is the nature of the group with whom they work?

The guidelines for the use of outside visitors, which are agreed by the college, will also be forwarded to the respective agencies and visitors who are invited in to the college.

This policy was agreed and adopted on (see frontsheet)